Between the Lines

**The Christian Layman's Information Service—
Condensed, Non-Denominational**

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CHARLES A. WELLS, *Editor and Publisher* GRACE LOZIER, *Ass't Editor*

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Moving Spotlight

Christian Breakfast

A group of Congressmen meet quietly each week for brief, informal religious services and breakfast. All denominations and the principal political parties are represented on these occasions. Current legislative business is considered from the standpoint of Christian ethics.

Alcoa Declared Monopoly

Anti-trust charges brought against the Aluminum Company of America and Aluminum, Ltd. of Canada, have been sustained by a verdict which, due to technical legal factors, has the finality of a United States Supreme Court ruling. A unanimous decision reached by three United States Circuit Court judges upheld the Justice Department's contention that Alcoa had formed a conspiracy to establish an aluminum monopoly. This closes a controversy which has been dragging on since 1937.

Extend Use of Negro Colleges

The South is considering a plan to widen educational opportunities for Negroes in the southern states. A committee of the Conference of Southern Governors is studying a suggestion made by Governor Colgate W. Darden, Jr., of Virginia, that exchange arrangements be made whereby a Negro student desiring a course not offered in any Negro college in his home state would be able to go to an institution in another state which did offer the course. This, says Governor Darden, would not only open greater educational opportunities to Negroes but would also utilize to a fuller extent the facilities now made available by the Negro colleges.

Texas Law Overruled

The right to freedom of speech also includes the right to urge workers to unionize, according to a ruling handed down by the Supreme Court recently. The decision nullifies a Texas anti-labor law which required union organizers to register before soliciting membership. The South has been a stronghold of anti-labor forces but is slowly

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AMERICAN REFUGEES who have just returned from the prison camps of the Philippines report that, whenever they are interviewed, the first request is, "Tell us about the Jap atrocities." This the refugees try to do, but some of them, especially the missionaries, also have tried to tell of the many instances when Japanese Christians, some of them in uniform, secretly aided—at the risk of their lives—imprisoned Americans. "No one seems interested in those incidents," said a repatriate to us recently. "Strange, isn't it, for on those Japanese rests our only hope of peace in the Pacific."

X-Ray and Forecast

Into the Future

Since President Roosevelt's death, all thinking citizens have been aware of the great political vacuum now existing in both international and domestic scenes. Remember the times that New Deal leaders became hopelessly entangled in controversies which could be solved only by the magic touch of the President. Now that the magic touch is gone, we may well imagine the tension behind the scenes in keeping a great machine going that no longer receives the immense spark-plugging it had for twelve years from the White House.

In the international scene, this tension is a thousandfold greater. Washington has been filled with stories of the absolute panic and confusion evidenced for many days in London when the news of the President's death was received. Churchill's enormous prestige, merged with Roosevelt's superb strategy, saved the world's imperial systems from the Nazis and Japanese. Imperialistic leaders were confident that these two great masters could carry on this salvation in the face of growing Soviet influence. Behind all the resounding self-assured phrases that have been coming from London since Roosevelt's death, inside reports emphatically indicate nerve racking fears and ever-increasing premonitions that any substitute for this two-man preservation of imperial interests will be impossible to find. To put it bluntly, Churchill and Stalin are known to have quarreled bitterly on many occasions. Only the warm charm of that master of human relations, the American President, kept them cooperating. Churchill, of course, did not want to quarrel with Stalin, but Churchill has a lot of pride and Stalin is full of stinging barbs that constantly put Churchill off balance and, in defensive retaliation, the Prime Minister has been prone to let matters go from bad to worse.

The British, Dutch and French empire leaders know that the American Senate, upon which the real power of American leadership now falls, will never be able to move with the adroit cohesiveness with which two men have moved in the past to protect long standing traditions and investments.

It is into this framework that we must now carry our thinking and estimates of the coming movements in human affairs.

God's Chance

It is satisfying to know that the American delegates to the San Francisco conference are folks who truly represent the kind of peace Americans want out of this war. Of that one point, every American citizen can be confident.

It is no longer a secret that, in meeting the issues and agenda of that conference, the American delegates are up against a dangerous and deceptive entanglement of international chicanery and power politics. The general nature of these problems, news of which has been universally suppressed in the Allied world, has been outlined in our past three releases. The new propaganda technique of our State Department is to dodge this situation by statements indicating that the San Francisco meeting is not a peace conference to settle issues, but an organizational conference to setup machinery of peace.

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Moving Spotlight

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being forced to give ground to the inevitable.

The matter was brought to a test by the refusal of R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, to register before addressing a group of Texas oil workers and urging them to join a union. Mr. Thomas was fined and imprisoned under Texas law, the state Supreme Court sustaining the conviction, but the case was carried to the United States Supreme Court which, by a five to four decision, reversed the state verdict. Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge said:

"Any attempt to restrict those liberties [of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly] must be justified by clear public interest threatened, not doubtfully or remotely, but by clear and present danger. Only the gravest abuses, endangering paramount public interest, give occasion for permissible limitation.

"The right to discuss and inform people concerning the advantages and disadvantages of unions and of joining them is protected not only as a part of free speech, but as part of free assembly."

Anti-Discrimination Bill

Something new in racial legislation has occurred in New York State—a bill prohibiting discrimination in employment due to race, color or creed. Because New York State has about the largest Jewish population of any state, and also a large Negro population, the passage of this law will have far-reaching significance. Both fine and imprisonment await any employer guilty of discrimination. Governor Dewey in signing the law stated that the aim of this legislation was to meet undemocratic practices with firmness and tolerance, fairness and justice.

Co-ops Grow

Some interesting new facts about the co-operative movement have just been released. In its reports on co-operatives, Between the Lines tries to stress the point that these consumer-owned projects are not communistic, but are

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In fact it is frankly recognized that under present conditions we cannot go much further than setting up the machinery of peace as long as Britain with her imperialistic associates and Russia still engage in vast world-scale maneuvers for power which undermine any sincere peace plans. No peace machinery can endure unless basic issues are met.

The big point of encouragement is that all political leadership recognizes that a new moral and spiritual awakening has come to men everywhere. Mr. Roosevelt time and again had to scramble to correct a situation that had leaked to the public mind, bringing forth the troubled protests of citizens and parents whose hearts and treasures were on the battlefronts. Churchill is still stinging from the outcry of "shame" which swept the world over his ill-fated adventures in Greece. Even hard-boiled Stalin has become cautious of aroused public sentiments in the non-Russian world. This newly awakened moral force, so latent in the days of World War I, is perhaps the greatest single factor of the hour. Prayers and sermons and earnest conversations, letters to political representatives—all these have mattered. Our efforts give God a chance. He is working!

Diplomats Shield War Criminals

An important situation which is still being kept from the public is the continued secret struggle over the punishment of German leaders. While Americans are being propagandized with stories and photographs of Nazi brutalities, new evidence has come to light that the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London, which has been thoroughly dominated by the British tory government, until a few months ago had refused even to place Hitler's name on the list of war criminals. The Czechoslovak government representative on that Commission, Dr. Bohumil Ecer, recently published an angry indictment of the **secret efforts of "certain important diplomats" to forestall and prevent any effective punishment of the high political and industrial officials in Germany.** Naturally effort has been made to hush up these charges as much as possible. A brief report of this last expose did appear in the New York Times on April 9, but was suppressed generally throughout the country.

Bankers in Government

That bank in your neighborhood is an indispensable part of our society, but behind the "retail banks" of the nation —those that serve the public—silently operate the great financial institutions that have little contact with the public. These interests pile up vast empires of profits and control by financial manipulation, usually without service to public need and often harmful to public interest.

Hard-hitting, progressive Congressman Jerry Voorhis, who speaks with considerable authority in financial matters, has been shedding light on some of these matters in Congress. He recently pointed out what every well-informed citizen knows is true, that a very large proportion of the total national debt is in the hands of powerful banking interests. Bankers hold $123,000,000,000 of this debt, while only $78,000,000,000 is held by individuals.

Mr. Voorhis' most startling statement was that the bankers were able to purchase the billions of bonds without expending a cent of their own money. A banker who orders, say, a million dollars' worth of bonds credits this amount to the government on his books instead of making payment in cash money. This credit is what Mr. Voorhis calls "invisible greenbacks." Should the bank later need funds, the bonds are brought to the Federal Reserve and are put up as security for Treasury certificates. Meanwhile, the bank continues to draw interest on the bonds. More than a third of the interest paid on the public debt goes to bankers, who have not actually invested a penny, and Mr. Voorhis declares: "The bankers have gotten out of the banking business and are in the business of government."

It might be added that most bankers know what is going on and realize that it is made possible by the control that Wall Street exerts on our Treasury. They also realize that it is a dangerous practice which will inevitably result in subsequent financial regulation enforced by the government and which will in the end destroy the "freedom of enterprise" that bankers now talk about so loudly.

Segregation Notes

tives, Between the Lines tries to stress the point that these consumer-owned projects are not communistic, but are actually capitalistic enterprises in the best and most Christian sense of the term "capitalistic."

Statistics issued recently reveal that co-ops do a billion dollars' worth of business a year. Their most prominent development has been in the petroleum industry, where they do a quarter of the petroleum business in rural areas, and in the fertilizer industry, where they do a volume of business large enough to influence price policies. By far the most extensive gains of co-ops are made in rural areas. Three out of every five farmers are members of co-operative societies. The war seems to have given considerable impetus to the growth of the movement, the rate of increase for 1944 being 33 per cent.

Greater than States

Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, who has concerned himself with the growth of monopolies in this country, has placed before the Senate a report which reveals that "a few corporations are greater and more powerful, in both terms of their receipts and the number of their employees, than most cities and states."

In 1942 forty-one corporations reported combined assets of more than $92,000,000,000, which approaches the World Almanac figure of the assessed valuation of the entire nation. The National City Bank of New York is richer than the state of Iowa. General Motors reports assets greater than the assessed valuation of all property in West Virginia, including railroads, mines and homes, and receipts three times greater than wealthy New York State. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's assets total more than the assessed valuation New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana or Wisconsin, and almost as much as the assessed valuation of California, Michigan or Massachusetts.

O'Mahoney's contention was supported in the House of Representatives by Congressman Sabath of Illinois, who stated that the Minneapolis Investors Association lists 40 large corporations which have reported assets amounting to $80,000,000,000 — an increase of $40,000.000,000 in two war years.

WHY NOT TRY THE BRIDGE?

The whole world's energy now seems to be bent to the task of finding a way out of the unhappy past where greed and selfishness, running rampant, brought us into a world war. Political genius and economic skill are being used to help us to cross over. From the standpoint of cynicism the task seems to be hopeless. But when political and economic leadership lifts its eyes and includes in its plans the transformation of human conduct and thought through the influence of the church and the church's teaching, then the vast gap between the unhappy present and a more hopeful future comes within the reach of human attainment.

Occupation Deal

Washington has learned that the Allied government in Germany has provided for the occupation of the Reich's chief industrial areas by British forces. This means that the tory scheme to **protect the industrial aristocracy of Germany is being successfully carried out,** since all plans for international control of these crucial districts will be left in suspense indefinitely under the protection of British interests. This is directly opposite from the impression being given to the American public by current propaganda. Disclosure of the plan of occupation was made by journalist Pertinax through the Newspaper Alliance.

Management-Labor Rapprochement

Splendid resolutions and declarations of peaceful cooperation between labor and management sponsored by Eric Johnston, of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and the officials of the CIO and AFL have been made. This "New Charter" was given wide publicity in the press during past weeks, a very encouraging development. However, these fine words did not dissolve some serious problems. Industrial leaders and representatives of management have not all accepted the Johnston code. Even the influential National Manufacturers Association is opposing it.

The CIO drive for an annual wage is not just a serenade in the moonlight on the part of labor leaders to their unions. The annual wage idea which big business is preparing to fight will be, as we forecast many months ago, one of the big battle issues of the future. What has happened is that the more progressive business leaders, represented by Eric Johnston, realize that they must cooperate with the more enlightened labor leadership. However many influential business leaders are growling their disapproval in the background and this gives opportunity for recriminatory action on the part of more radical elements in labor circles.

Many other issues are tied to the annual wage idea, such as participation in management by labor delegates, larger vacation and pension allowances and similar proposals.

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terprise" that bankers now talk about so loudly.

Segregation Notes

Outstanding Negro leaders, at the request of the Commission on the Church and Minority Peoples of the Federal Council of Churches, prepared a statement urging that race segregation be eliminated within the Christian church. "Can any church be basically Christian that denies fellowship or membership on the ground of color or race?" they ask. This request on the part of prominent Negro churchmen is an important new move to get the church to take the lead away from radical groups and agitators in promoting racial progress. It is noteworthy that the statement asking for the abolition of church segregation does not advocate the doing away with Negro and white churches but says " . . . they may be separate churches but not racially segregated churches."

A California public housing project provides for 1,500 families, Negro and white, to live together on a basis of social equality. Many of the white residents objected to having Negro neighbors under the announced policy of non-segregation, but the management will stand firm unless a specific Negro family proves troublesome. Non-segregation is maintained also in the Protestant and Catholic church services, and at least one Negro has served on the Community Council. The race problem has not been raised as a political issue in this housing development, and the project seems to demonstrate that people, if slowly and reluctantly, can learn to grow out of those traditions which have delayed the realization of "unconditional" democracy in America.

Anti-Nazis

Although the existence of such organizations has often been denied by our official hate specialists and propagandists, information has reached Washington from Army sources that the reason American troops were able to capture intact the bridge at Remagen was because an anti-Nazi student group, operating within the Schutz Staffel itself, sent word to the American command concerning the Ludendorff bridge.

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Catholic Control

It has leaked out since the inter-American conference at Chapultepec that efforts to introduce motions and petitions seeking greater religious freedom in Catholic-dominated Latin America were blocked and the proposals were never allowed to reach the groups that could act upon them. A Haiti resolution which did reach the floor was so doctored and amended as to be meaningless.

Boom Prediction

Authentic research bureaus are extending their estimates of the length of America's post-war boom to a full five years. As we have reported to you from time to time, the post-war boom has been forecast by economic authorities as due to last three years, four years and now five years. But one significant fact is that all authorities agree that the longer and bigger the boom, the more serious the depression crisis will be that follows. In other words, the bigger the boom, the harder the fall!

Here is an outline of salient reasons for the boom and its duration, as presented by one well known financial analyst, Ralph Hendershot:

1. Money rates are lower than ever before in history. Savings were never so large.
2. Latent demand for goods is at peak proportions.
3. Industry is determined to maintain high employment at the best wages in history, and the government proposes to pour additional funds into the purchasing power stream.
4. Loans and gifts to other nations, to be taken largely in goods, undoubtedly will be so large as to make the private bankers after the last war look like pikers.
5. A philosophy is being sold throughout the world that debts are meaningless as a danger and are even beneficial. [Here is an important danger spot leading to socialization or complete economic revolution.]
6. The world's attention is on economic as opposed to strictly political problems, and attempts will be made to put buying power into the hands of millions who never before were important consumers.

Soviet Shadow Over Europe

Russian armies and Russian political forces have gained complete control over Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland in the last few weeks and are now moving into Austria with an invasion of Denmark listed as an early move. Great concern exists in Washington and London over Russian designs for Vienna and Austria. Will Russia bring Austria under the orbit of Soviet control? Moscow has issued assurances of independence to Austria, but Rumania received such promises also. The fact is that there are strong communist organizations in Austria which no doubt will be given an open door for political action, Soviet policy stifling any opposition to them. That, too, has been the policy in Rumania and elsewhere, so that Moscow can with diplomatic neatness say, "We let the people choose."

The Catholic church is especially disturbed by the situation in Austria which, under the old pre-war Hapsburgs, was the Catholic world center—even above Rome. As reported to you previously, an intense diplomatic conflict is raging behind the scenes between the Vatican and Moscow. What will become of the millions of Roman Catholics and their interests in Poland, Rumania, Austria as the Soviet armies move in, bringing with them the resurgent forces of the Eastern Orthodox Church which has long been the arch-enemy of the Roman Church? That question is a hot one behind the scenes of all our peace conferences, and little about it ever reaches the public ear.

The State Department is doing its utmost to suppress all reports reaching this country concerning the wholesale liquidation of potentially dissident groups which is being carried out by the Russians in Poland, Rumania and the Balkan areas. Our government is not only trying to cover up these facts, but is maintaining a deliberate silence about them so that the peace plans won't be disturbed—although widely heralded promises had been made that no action of this sort would be carried on by any of the United Nations.

In France a three-way tug-of-war is going on between Russian, Vatican and British interests. The communist groups are both strong and active in France, but so is the Catholic Church and so are French financial interests closely tied to London imperialistic leaders. It is because of this three-way pull that we are hearing varied and contradictory reports from France.

Keep Perspective

In view of the above we must keep a level perspective on Russia. For twenty years, America was fed propaganda to the effect that all Russians were unwashed, Godless bolsheviks; that they were inefficient, inert and impoverished; that the Communist government would soon collapse. From 1941 to 1944, the propaganda was reversed. The official line given out then was that the Russians were all brave, efficient, God-fearing sons of democracy; that communism was becoming more and more capitalistic.

Now attempts are being made to reverse the propaganda line once more! The average American is going to begin to feel like the chameleon that went crazy when placed on a patchwork quilt! William White's book on Russia is causing much controversy because he goes back to the 1920-40 attitude. However, no Christian layman can afford to let his thinking be limited to these absurd, reversing waves of propaganda.

When the layman reads statements that Russia's workers are inefficient and enslaved, he should realize that they are also dogged, patient workers, toiling long hours. Although all walks of life are now admittedly under the most severe state control, the Russian people have never known freedom as we know it. Russians are impoverished, ill-fed and poorly clothed, but they have always lived and thrived on a low living standard. For centuries, only a small margin of the Russian population was well-fed and well-clothed, but, as a whole, Russians are vigorous, hardy people with a high immunity to disease. Behind Russia's obvious surface, concerning which current propaganda makes so much, exists a vast continent of incalculable resources, some developed, most yet untouched. Along with natural resources, the Soviet Union can draw on skillful leaders, great military geniuses and a rapidly growing group of engineers and scientists.

A big point has been made of the fact that elevators and lavatories in Russian hotels don't work efficiently. Russian tanks and plants work—if you don't think so, ask Adolph! Current talk has it that Russia couldn't have done much without our lend-lease supplies, but the fact is that Russia had smashed the Nazi armies at Stalingrad and was rolling the German tide back before our supplies had become more than a trickle. The Soviet government has issued several statements on this point. They just as readily state that the speed by which the Nazis were driven out of Russia was greatly accelerated by our aid.

Russia has successfully carried out the biggest military offensive in history, and now stands astraddle Europe and Asia with the greatest power ever assembled. Official estimates of the Russian army puts it around 18 million. This is larger than all the rest of the United Nations' armies put together. The vast Russian Army of hardy peasant stock also forms the projection of the greatest revolutionary force the world has ever known; a force that for the most part was created by a sordid betrayal of Christianity in Russia during past generations; a force which has hurled into the world vast economic reformations. Hence, we repeat that every Christian layman should keep a hard-headed, balanced view of Russia if he is to understand some of the most important forces shaping the world's future.